Further instructions have been issued to all State and UT Governments to take action as per law against the persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and the Government staff found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible families/persons.

Essential commodities Act to check hoarding/price rise

1557. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether provisions of Essential Commodities Act are adequate to enable States to prevent hoarding of wheat, pulses, etc., thereby checking undue price rise;

(b) if so, how many traders were booked for crossing limits imposed by State Governments since August, 2006 when powers under this Act were invoked and regularly renewed every six month till now State-wise; and

(c) the other steps taken to prevent further price rise of foodgrains meant for vulnerable sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Data available on action taken by the State Governments/UTs under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 from the year 2006 is given below:

Year	No. of raids	No. of Persons arrested	No. of Persons prosecuted	No. of Persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated (Rs. in Lakhs)
2006	135025	5421	3244	498	977.21
2007	235405	6944	4872	1022	4003.96
2008	268775	8001	6425	790	6095.22
2009 (upto 30.06.2009) (Updated as on 13.07.2009)	56990	3152	1691	24	1314.79

(c) Under the Public Distribution System Government of India procures and provides essential commodities to the state governments for distribution to the vulnerable sections of society. In addition through a mix of monetary, fiscal and trade policies steps have been taken to contain theprice rise for essential commodities.

Food security for BPL families

1558. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is working on a provision related to food security for BPL families;